

Types of Sentences

Skilled writers vary the lengths of their sentences. Using too many short sentences makes writing choppy; however, using too many long sentences can make writing confusing. When you write, try to mix **simple**, **compound**, **complex**, and **compound-complex** sentences to achieve variety and clarity. (See pages 577–579 in *Texas Write Source* for more on types of sentences.)



Examples

Simple Sentence:

Jack and Maria love in-line skating.

Compound Sentence:

They play on a roller-hockey team, and they enjoy the competition.

Complex Sentence:

Although they are amateurs now, Jack and Maria dream of being professional skaters someday.

Compound-Complex Sentence:

Because they are determined to fulfill their dream, Jack and Maria practice daily, and they read everything that they can find about skating.

Note: A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.



Directions

Label the following sentences with “S” for simple, “C” for compound, “CX” for complex, and “CC” for compound-complex. The first sentence has been done for you.

- S 1. Joseph Merlin, a Dutchman, invented roller skates in the eighteenth century.
2. After he studied the design of ice skates, Joseph fastened wooden spools in the place of the ice-skate blades.

- _____ 3. In 1763, metal wheels replaced the wooden spools, and in 1863, American inventor James Leonard Plimpton created rocking skates that allowed the skater to maneuver more easily.
- _____ 4. Ball-bearing wheels were introduced late in the nineteenth century, and, as a result, roller-skating became even more popular.
- _____ 5. Skateboards and in-line skates are modifications of roller skates.
- _____ 6. Skateboards are short, wide boards made of wood, plastic, or fiberglass.
- _____ 7. In-line skates were first manufactured in the 1980s, and they have become very popular with people of all ages.
- _____ 8. Although roller-skating has not been accepted as an Olympic sport, athletes can compete in events like short-track speed skating with other roller skaters.
- _____ 9. Because Roller Derby was so popular in the 1950s, fans flocked to indoor rinks to watch, or they stayed home and watched on their televisions.

Next Step Find out more about Roller Derby, speed skating, or roller hockey by using the Internet or other sources. Write a paragraph about your findings and share your writing with a classmate. Ask your classmate to label the types of sentences you used in your paragraph.